Serial No.: 09/963,666

Docket No. KOKUSAI079

ORI.041

REMARKS

Claims 1-3 are all the claims presently pending in the application. Claims 4-5 have

been canceled. Applicants gratefully acknowledge the Examiner's indication that claims 1-3

are allowed. No new matter has been added.

It is noted that the claim amendments herein are made only for more particularly

pointing out the invention, and not for distinguishing the invention over the prior art,

narrowing the claims, or for any statutory requirements of patentability.

Further, it is noted that, notwithstanding any claim amendments made herein.

Applicants' intent is to encompass equivalents of all claim elements, even if amended herein

or later during prosecution.

FORMAL MATTERS AND CONCLUSION

In view of the foregoing, Applicants submit that claims 1-3, all the claims presently

pending in the application, are patentably distinct over the prior art of record and are in

condition for allowance. Should the Examiner find the application to be other than in

condition for allowance, the Examiner is requested to contact the undersigned at the local

telephone number listed below to discuss any other changes deemed necessary in a telephonic

or personal interview.

The Commissioner is hereby authorized to charge any deficiencies in fees or to credit

any overpayment of fees to Attorney's Deposit Account No. 50-0481.

ECTUAL PROPERTY

LAW GROUP, PLLC

8321 Old Courthouse Road, Suite 200

Vienna, Virginia 22182-3817

(703) 761-4100, Customer No. 21254

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Respectfully submitted,

Registration No.: 34,386